



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 154**

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5459

*House of Representatives, March 23, 2016*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 20-126l of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2016*):

4 (g) Each licensed dental hygienist applying for license renewal shall  
5 earn a minimum of sixteen hours of continuing education within the  
6 preceding twenty-four-month period, including at least one contact  
7 hour of training or education in cultural competency. The subject  
8 matter for continuing education shall reflect the professional needs of  
9 the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public.  
10 Continuing education activities shall provide significant theoretical or  
11 practical content directly related to clinical or scientific aspects of  
12 dental hygiene. Qualifying continuing education activities include, but  
13 are not limited to, courses, including on-line courses, that are offered  
14 or approved by dental schools and other institutions of higher

15 education that are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental  
16 Accreditation, a regional accrediting organization, the American  
17 Dental Association, a state, district or local dental association or society  
18 affiliated with the American Dental Association, the National Dental  
19 Association, the American Dental Hygienists Association or a state,  
20 district or local dental hygiene association or society affiliated with the  
21 American Dental Hygienists Association, the Academy of General  
22 Dentistry, the Academy of Dental Hygiene, the American Red Cross or  
23 the American Heart Association when sponsoring programs in  
24 cardiopulmonary resuscitation or cardiac life support, the United  
25 States Department of Veterans Affairs and armed forces of the United  
26 States when conducting programs at United States governmental  
27 facilities, a hospital or other health care institution, agencies or  
28 businesses whose programs are accredited or recognized by the  
29 Council on Dental Accreditation, local, state or national medical  
30 associations, or a state or local health department. Eight hours of  
31 volunteer dental practice at a public health facility, as defined in  
32 subsection (a) of this section, may be substituted for one hour of  
33 continuing education, up to a maximum of five hours in one two-year  
34 period. Activities that do not qualify toward meeting these  
35 requirements include professional organizational business meetings,  
36 speeches delivered at luncheons or banquets, and the reading of books,  
37 articles, or professional journals. Not more than four hours of  
38 continuing education may be earned through an on-line or other  
39 distance learning program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2016	20-1261(g)
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**PH**            *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

This bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health as it is not anticipated to alter the number of dental hygienists licensed by the agency. The bill requires at least one contact hour of training or education in cultural competency as part of mandated, continuing education requirements for licensure renewal.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5459*****AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY  
FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires dental hygienists applying for license renewal to complete at least one contact hour (i.e., 50 minutes) of education or training in cultural competency. This applies as part of the existing requirement that they take at least 16 hours of continuing education in the preceding 24 months.

By law, continuing education subject matter must reflect the licensee's professional needs to meet the public's health care needs. Continuing education activities must provide significant theoretical or practical content directly related to clinical or scientific aspects of dental hygiene.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    25    Nay   1    (03/07/2016)